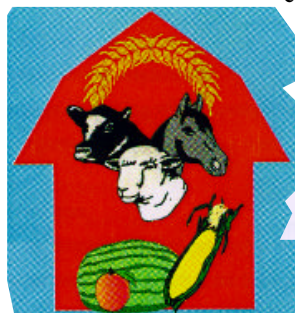


Year of the Farmer Promoters Honored By Utah Farm Bureau

The Utah Farm Bureau honored Utah Association of Conservation District's Education Specialist, Sheri Einfeldt for her creation and promotion of the Year of the Farmer public awareness campaign. Einfeldt, along with Utah Department of Agriculture and Food's Public Information Officer, Larry Lewis and KSL radio personality, Amanda Dickson produced a series of radio commercials drawing attention to the contributions that Utah farmers make to our society.

The campaign began with a special proclamation by the Utah Legislature and Governor Leavitt. A series of community celebrations were held around the state recognizing the farmer. Soil Conservation license plates were created with the proceeds going to benefit the Soil Conserva-



tion Districts. Four different radio spots aired more than 8,000 times on radio stations throughout Utah. The Utah State Fair honored farmers, as did the Utah Farm Bureau by designating its 1998 annual meeting in honor of the Utah farmers. A commemorative theme song and CD was composed by Davis County farmer, Steve Flint. The song's title: Cousin to the Cowboy.



UACD Education Specialist, Sherri Einfeldt looks on as Governor Mike Leavitt signs the Year of the Farmer resolution during the YOF kickoff celebration in Davis County.

Agencies & Public Partner To Battle Gypsy Moth

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food's (UDAF) Division of Plant Industry will join with federal, state and local agencies and the public to work to eradicate a small infestation of gypsy moth located in Salt Lake County in the spring of 1999. This will be phase two of a treatment program first initiated in 1998, and part of a four Western state effort to control the tree defoliating insect.



The UDAF, along with the U.S. Forest Service, is proposing to eradicate the moth using an integrated pest management approach that includes mass trappings and three aerial treatments using the chemical *Bacillus thuringiensis*, known as Bt. Bt is a microbial insecticide that is only effective on caterpillar larva at a precise stage of development. The pesticide would be applied three times beginning in the end April or early May—depending on weather conditions.

The eradication program comes after 21 gypsy moths were detected in the Knudsen's Corner area of Salt Lake County (Holladay area) and another 11 found elsewhere along the Wasatch Front in the summer of 1998. The population was reduced by 50 percent after last year's treatment efforts, however if left untreated would quickly increase, causing severe damage to trees. Increased detection trapping efforts will help evaluate the significance of these catches and determine future eradication needs.

The 764 acres involved in this latest program represents the smallest number of acres treated in the state. This will be the seventh year since 1989 that an eradication program has been in place. More than 70,000 acres of public and private lands have been treated since 1989.

Public comment regarding the project is being sought from residents located in last year's spray area. Program managers wish to incorporate comments or suggestions into current plans as a way to better meet the needs of the project's goals.

An open house to answer questions regarding the 1999 gypsy moth eradication project will be scheduled in March at the Olympus Junior High School.

MARCH 1999

Ag. News on the Web



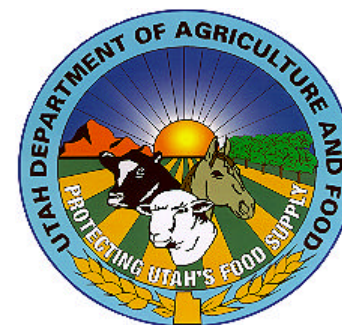
Gypsy Moth Treatment Planned For Spring



Ag. Census '97 Available



UDAF Program Protects Bottled Water Consumers



Division Duo Check Quality and Accuracy Of Utah Bottled Water

One look down a typical supermarket beverage aisle and you can see how American consumers have fallen in love with bottled water. The product comes in a variety of styles and labels, with names that conjure up visions of purity and wholesomeness such as Park City Natural Mountain Spring Water, Yellowstone Natural Artesian Spring Water, and Teton High Altitude Spring Water.

There's a State of Utah connection with every bottle or jug of water you buy. The Department of Agriculture and Food's Division of Regulatory Services regulates the industry. UDAF inspectors work to keep the product safe and make sure that companies don't go overboard with misleading labels.

Bottled water in Utah is among the safest in the country. The department regularly inspects the 14 companies doing business in Utah and has found no serious water quality violations.

"Being so close to the Rocky Mountains, we have one of the best sources of water of any place in the country," said Becky Shreeve, Food Safety Program Supervisor. Shreeve and other UDAF food safety inspectors visit each water bottling company at least twice a year, looking for proper sanitation and manufacturing practices. Water is checked for chemicals, organics, pesticides and volatile organics. A radiological study is even done.

"In many cases the water that is bottled and sold on store shelves is not much different than the water that comes from your tap," says Shreeve. "What you are essentially buying is convenience and taste," she says.

Guarding what goes **in** the bottle is Shreeve's responsibility, what goes **on** the bottle's label comes under the scrutiny of Claudia Gale, UDAF's Labeling Program Manager.

"A company can't claim or infer that its water comes from a particular geographic region, or contains special ingredients when in fact it doesn't," says Gale. "We've

taken action against several companies for using misleading labeling," she adds.

Gale and the department acted against one company for claiming their water came from the Yellowstone National Park area, when the water actually was bottled in Salt Lake. Another company put a picture of an Indian rain dancer and the delicate arch rock formation on the bottle and implied the water came from the four corners area of Utah, when the water was actually bottled in Ogden.

Bottlers who claim certain ingredients must meet federal guideline that the product actually contains those ingredients.

"We're working with one company to change their labeling because it claims the water contains a higher level of calcium than it actually does," says Gale. The company used the word "Rich" in its label. According to state and federal regulations, the word "Rich" means the product contains at least 20 percent of the daily recommended amount of that product. The company didn't do that.

Shreeve and Gale are just two members of a state division that oversees several consumer protection responsibilities. The division also monitors the fuel pumps at your local gasoline station, and the scanners and scales at your grocery store.



Regulatory Services' Food Safety Program Supervisor, Becky Shreeve inspects one of the many bottled water products regulated by the State. Shreeve says because of Utah's location near the Rocky Mountains, we have a great source of water for both bottled and tap water.

1997 CENSUS—A PICTURE OF UTAH'S AGRICULTURE

The 1997 Census of Agriculture counted 14,200 farms in Utah in 1997. Census figures report that these farms sold \$877 million worth of agricultural products - an average of \$61,000 in sales per farm.

Every five years the census of agriculture takes a snapshot of America's agriculture. This picture is an invaluable tool for assessing trends and determining current needs of farmers and ranchers at the local level. The census provides comprehensive, comparable statistics for every county in the nation. For example, according to the 1997 census, Utah county ranked first in the number of farms while Cache county was number one in market value of agricultural products sold.

These facts and more for every county and state are now available from the 1997 Census of Agriculture Highlights Tables on the NASS website at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>. More detailed census reports will be released on March 20, 1999 on the Internet, on CD-ROM and in printed publication. For more information call 1-800-747-8522.

EMPLOYEE NEWS

Dr. Chris Crnich was named **Manager** of the Division of Animal Industry's **Meat Inspection Program**. Dr. Crnich served as an Animal Industry veterinarian for two years before his appointment. Dr. Crnich fills the vacancy created when **Jim Beveridge retired** in January after 33 years of service to the department. **Troy Higgs** is Animal Industry's new **meat inspector**. He comes to the department from Wasatch Meats where he was a meat cutter.